The Bible and Daily Living

The servant way

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
THE SERVANT WAY
Lesson for April 1, 1984
Bible Study Passage: Mark 10:32-45

INTRODUCTION

The term servant is a "turn off" for many people. We don't like being in a subservient role to anyone. The emancipation of slaves and women is a tell-tale sign that people don't like the idea of being a second class citizen. God never really intended for people to be stripped of their personal integrity in order to bow before others.

The irony of the Gospel is the servant role that Christ played during his life on earth. He stated that he came not to be served but to serve others. He instructed his disciples in the kingdom's work of self-sacrifice. The way of the servant is to offer oneself for the sake of others. This means making ourselves available to the needs of people.

To be a servant unto others in the name of Christ does not mean stepping down to a lower form of life. In fact, to be a servant of Christ is to take a step upwards. Jesus said, "He who loses his life for my sake and the Gospel, the same shall find it."

To be used and abused by others for their convenience and pleasure is slavery at its worst. But to give oneself for the benefit of others is servanthood at his best.

JESUS SETS HIS FACE TOWARD JERUSALEM (Mark 10:32-34)

Jesus knew that death was on the horizon of his life. His journey to Jerusalem marked the beginning of the dramatic conclusing to his earthly pilgrimage. He made the journey along, a journey we each make when death comes, for no one can do our dying for us. Jesus faced his death with a sense of solitary determination, but his heavenly father was with him all the way.

The disciples were puzzled by the news that Jesus should meet his death. The became so preoccupied over his death that they missed his affirmation of his resurrection. They only heard the bad news.

We are like the disciples in that we oftentimes miss the good news because we are so preoccupied with the bad news. Sometimes we must look extra hard and listen more intently for the good in life.

THE DISCIPLES HOPE FOR HONOR (Mark 10:35-40)

The disciples had a hard time focusing upon anything other than a messianic kingdom under the rule of Jesus. Ignoring his words about his death, several requested honorable positions in this earthly kingdom. They abused their relationship to Jesus and asked for something he was unable to deliver. He told them that suffering was the only thing they could count on if they continued to follow him.

TRUE GREATNESS (Mark 10:41-45)

Jesus was surely disappointed in the disciple's behavior and attitude. They were asking for prominence within an earthly kingdom that did not exist. There is no organizational chart in the kingdom of God, no corporate structure where executive types hold power and authority over others.

Jesus assured the disciples that true greatness is measured by service and servanthood. There is no such thing as a boss and laborers. Everyone pulls their fair share of the weight. So, Jesus comes back to his original stance in life, namely, to die to self in order for others to live.

Class members and readers can ponder the following questions:

1. What does it mean to you to be a servant to others?
2. Name some ways you can personally minister to others.
3. Decide how you can offer yourself to someone who is troubled or needy this week.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois. (WLYP).

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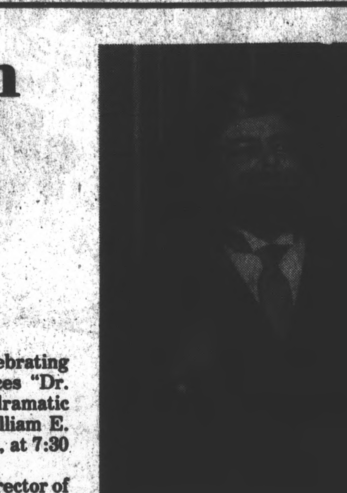
Fred Anderson

Liberty Baptist Church, celebrating its 150th anniversary announces "Dr. Hatcher Remembers," a dramatic portrayal on the life of Dr. William E. Hatcher set for Sunday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. at Liberty Baptist Church.

Fred Anderson, executive director of the Virginia Baptist Historical Society, will portray Hatcher, a prominent Virginia minister of the last century. Anderson has presented the portrayal numerous times before civic and church groups across Virginia. Anderson, 37, has to age quickly to become a man of about 70.

William E. Hatcher (1834-1912) was born in Bedford County, Virginia, but spent most of his life in Richmond, Virginia where he served for 26 years as pastor of Grace Street Baptist Church, now called simply Grace Baptist Church.

Prior to coming to Grace, he was pastor of the Manchester Baptist Church, now the Bainbridge-Southampton Chruch. Hatcher and his brother Harvey, attended Richmond College in the 1850s. Richmond College, now one branch of the University of Richmond, attracted numerous young Baptist men destined for the ministry.

During his college years, Hatcher led a religious revival on campus which resulted in the conversion of practically every student in the college.

Hatcher remained associated with the college as a trustee for 42 years. He was president of the Board of Trustees from 1897-1908 and is credited with delivering the decisive speech which convinced the trustees to move the school to its present site in the West End of Richmond.

His interest in education led to the establishment of Fork Union Military Academy. Hatcher maintained a home called "Careby Hall" near the Fork Union campus.

Hatcher became a prominent figure throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. He was in great demand as a public speaker, especially for church anniversaries, dedications and associations. He wrote five books and served as junior editor of the **Religious Herald**, the Baptist newspaper in Virginia.

The revival of Dr. Hatcher is but one of several characterizations recreated by Fred Anderson and presented as "living History" by the Society. Founded in 1876, the Virginian Baptist Historical Society is the oldest and largest state historical organization within the Southern Baptist Convention. The Society maintains a research library on the campus of the University of Richmond. Membership in the organization is open to anyone interested in its work.

The Public is invited to attend.

April 1-5

Piney Ridge slates revival

Revival services will be held at Piney Ridge United Methodist Church April 1-5, with services starting at 7:30 p.m. each night.

Guest speaker for the revival will be the Rev. Don Davidson, pastor of Hyco United Methodist Charge in South Boston.

Mr. Davidson is an ordained member of the Virginia Annual Conference, and has served under appointment for the past 13 years. He has served churches in the Altavista, Gretna and Charlottesville areas. In addition to serving as pastor of the Hyco Charge, he serves on three district committees and serves the Halifax-South Boston Community Hospital as staff chaplain.

Mr. Davidson was educated at Lynchburg College, Ferrum College and Duke University Divinity School. Prior to entering the ministry fulltime in 1971, he was a regional manager for a national food manufacturer. He entered the ministry at age 35.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidson have been married 24 years and are the parents of three children and one grandchild, all living in the South Boston area.

The Rev. Davidson's evangelistic emphasis is on the centrality of Christ with a Wesleyan Holiness as the basis for discipleship.

During the revival, special music and a nursery will be provided each night.

Shop Locally

Gravel Hill church news

By MILLIE BERKLEY

Pastor Miller delivered a well-prepared sermon, "Doing What God Wants Us to Do," on March 18 at Gravel Hill Baptist Church.

We were delighted to have so many visitors on hand to worship with us. Visitors are always welcome.

Our Spring Revival will begin April 2. A prayer service will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., followed immediately by the revival service. Services will be held each night through April 7.

The Ten Friends rally will be held April 8 at 6 p.m.

Sympathy is extended to Mrs. T.W. Hambert, who lost her brother.

Sympathy is extended to the Wade family of Evergreen, in the loss of Mr. Wade's father in Cullen.

Mr. Willie L. Woolridge has been on the sick list. We hope he will have a speedy recovery.

Please pray for the sich and shut-in everywhere. Prayer is the key to heaven, and faith unlocks the door.

Galilee church news notes

Love the Lord your God...with all your mind. Luke 10:27.

We take great pleasure inviting you to attend our regular worship services at Galilee this coming Sunday. Church school classes begin at 9:45 a.m. and worship services start at 11 a.m. The senior choir will render music.

At 3 p.m., the Rev. Lindsey Fleshman of Miami, Florida will be our guest speaker. The First Baptist senior choir will be guest singers. We look forward to seeing you for a spiritual feast.

April 16 marks the beginning of Holy Week Services. The schedule will be published on April 10 in The Times-Virginian.

Dr. and Mrs. George Martin made a safe trip back from New York. We welcome them home.

Continue in prayer and have a spirit-filled week. Love to all from Galilee.

Bowen family unique

[Continued from page 1]

the job he had been call to do.

"Each time you get in the pulpit you are a conduit," said Sallye. "A part of you is plugged into a source of power so strong it really boggles your mind. Your are aware of the power and you want to be so careful of the words you speak. You want to be certain that what you say comes from God. You want to be hopeful," Sallye added.

"On Saturdays we get prepared for Sunday mornings," said Clarence. "I don't mean just adequate study and preparation for the sermon, but getting ourselves truly in the spirit of worship and service.....preparing to enter the pulpit."

Sallye and Clarence Bowen take their responsibilities as pastors very seriously. They each preach at one of the churches every Sunday morning. We take turns going to the four churches, where Sunday School and worship is held every Sunday.

"We tell our churches that we are their family and they are ours. Our own families realize that with us, God and our church families come first. No weekends off.....that is our busiest time," Clarence said.

With approximately 600 people in the four churches, the Bowens have to manage their time very well. As part of wise time management, they share housework.

"Yes, we share everything, sermon preparation, study time, housework. However, I don't like to do dishes so Clarence usually does that. I lean more to electrical work and carpentry and things like that. Maybe, in a way we switch roles when it comes to working around the house," commented Sallye.

Sallye is attending Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. now, which means she is in Washington from Monday morning until Friday afternoon.

"I miss her so much," Clarence says, "but she got me through Seminary and now it's her turn."

The Bowens have a daughter, Kelly, 16 who, according to her father, is an excellent cook and housekeeper.

Sallye, who has been cutting Clarences's hair since their marriage, has recently started cutting the hair of some of the Seminary students.

"I asked one of the fellows one day, 'Do you like to wear your hair that long?' and he replied, 'Hair cuts cost $10.00 here.' that's when I became the Seminary barber," said Sallye.

When Sallye and Clarence enter the pulpit they wear white robes. This made quite an impression on one little boy.

At one church where they were serving a little boy had seen Clarence in his white robe in the pulpit but he evidently didn't know his name or exactly what position he held in the church.

One day Clarence had occasion to call the mother of the little boy, and the youngster answered the phone. Clarence identified himself and asked for the mother. As the youngster hurriedly put the receiver down, Clarence heard him call to his mother, "It's for you Mama, and it's Jesus."

"Happiness is a sense of peace that comes from God," Sallye said.

The Bowens are happy people, doing what God called them to do.

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Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Evening Service 7:30 P.M.
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30 P.M.
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Everyone Welcome
Pastors: Sallye & Clarence Bowen
PINEY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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APS Menu

Mon., April 2
Corn Dog
French Fries
Peas and Carrots
Milk
Happy Birthday Cake!

Tues., April 3
Surfburger
Creamed Potatoes
String Beans
Home Baked Roll-Butter
Milk

Wed., April 4
Beefaroni
Slaw
Peaches
Home Baked Roll-Butter
Milk

Thurs., April 5
Hamburger on Bun
Green Peas
Baked Apples
Jello w/Topping
Milk

Fri., April 6
Vegetable Soup
Cheese Sandwich
Mixed Fruit
Cookie
Milk

Mon., April 9
Hot Dog on Bun
String Beans
Boiled Potato
Cookie
Milk

Tues., April 10
Barbecue on Bun
Pork and Beans
Slaw
Milk

Wed., April 11
Chicken Pattie
Creamed Patatoes
Peas and Carrots
Home Baked Roll-Butter
Pudding
Milk

Thurs., April 12
Hamburger on Bun
Lima Beans
Peaches
Milk

Fri., April 13
Fish Squares
Greens
French Fries
Corn Bread-Butter
Milk

Mon., April 16
Pizza
Tossed Salad
Apple Sauce
Cookie
Milk

Tues., April 17
Ham Pattie
Creamed Potatoes
String Beans
Home Baked Roll-Butter
Milk

Wed., April 18
Chili Beans
Slaw
Home Baked Roll-Butter
Mixed Fruit
Milk

Thurs., April 19
Hamburger on Bun
Buttered Corn
French Fries
Brownie
Milk

Fri., April 20
Ham
Winter Mix
Candied Sweet Potatoes
Home Baked Roll-Butter
Jello w/Topping
Milk

April 23 - April 27
Easter Holidays!

Mon., April 30
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String Beans
Home Baked Roll-Butter
Apple Sauce
Milk

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